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A Case of Extensive Pigmented and Hairy Nevus

Of the "Bathing-Trunk Type," Presenting
Genital Tumors

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NEW YORK

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It is fortunate that the extensive cases of pigmented and hairy nevus are infrequent, as the condition may be extremely disfiguring and is practically impossible to relieve. The majority of such lesions are seen on almost any portion of the body and do not present any particular configuration. In a certain number of cases, however, the lesions, for some unknown reason, are situated on the lower portion of the trunk and upper portions of the thighs and closely simulate in appearance a pair of bathing-trunks. This peculiar localization is well shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Patient.—Rose M., a girl $4\frac{1}{2}$ years old, born in the United States, of Russian parents, is the second of four children all of whom are living and healthy. There is no tendency in any member of her family to suffer from any form of nevus. While the lesions were present at birth, the mother says that the pigmentation has gradually become darker, and the growth of hair somewhat longer and more profuse. The child is intelligent, strong and sturdy and has always enjoyed excellent health.

General Description of Nevus.—About one-half of her body is covered by pigmented and hairy lesions. The greater portion of the nevus consists of a solid symmetrical sheet, involving the lower two-thirds of the trunk and upper three-fourths of the thighs. The upper borders of this area extend anteriorly from the point midway between the umbilicus and xiphoid, upward and outward to meet posteriorly and include three-fourths of the surface of the back. The color of the pigmented area is brown. It is not uniform, however, but more or less mottled by the presence of small black spots scattered over the brownish surface. The pigmentation on the abdomen is somewhat less marked than it is on the back and legs. The greater portion of the area described is covered

by an abundant growth of dark hair. This is most marked on the anterior surface of the thighs, where the long stiff hairs form a veritable coat of fur. The hair on the abdomen is soft and downy in character. On the legs are several rounded pigmented areas averaging 8 cm. in diameter and covered with long stiff hair. The soles present a few pigmented spots, the palms being free. The remaining portions of the body, including the face and scalp, present a large number of pigmented spots varying from a pin-head to a quarter in size. The smaller lesions are smooth while the larger ones are more or less covered with hair. On the right cheek there is a white scar, where a pigmented hairy lesion had previously been removed by the application of nitric acid.

Tumors.—The lower right aspect of the back presents a large, raised, flattened area of soft and elastic consistency. Bordering on this large area are two rounded soft tumors, the larger being the size of a large cherry. The right inguinal region presents an elongated soft elastic swelling about 3 inches long, simulating a hernia in appearance. It is, however, not reducible and gives no impulse on coughing. Arising from the labia majora are three globular, soft, elastic tumors. Their surface is smooth, and the skin covering them is normal in appearance and not adherent. Two of the tumors arise from the left side of the vulva, one above the other. The lower one is pedunculated and the size of an apricot. The upper one is as large as a hazel-nut and is sessile. The tumor on the right side is the size of a cherry and is pedunculated. The appearance of the child at first glance is that of a male, the little, genital tumors looking like testicles. With the exception of these tumor-masses of the labia the genital organs are perfectly normal in appearance.

In the literature I have been able to find reports of twenty-five cases of the peculiar "bathing-trunk" type of nevus. In a general discussion of pigmented nevus, Bircher¹ quotes the case recorded by an anonymous author in the *Lancet*,² and cases reported by Kostial,³ Hebra and Kaposi,⁴ Jablokoff and Klein,⁵ Michelson,⁶ Hyde,⁷

1. Bircher, M. O.: Zur Aetiologie des Naevus pilosus pigmentosus congenitus, extensus, Arch. f. Dermat. u. Syph., 1897, xii, 195.

2. Remarkable Case of Hairy Nevus, *Lancet*, London, 1869, ii, 276.

3. Kostial, T.: Seltene Pigmentbildung der Haut, Allg. Wien. Med. Zeit., 1872, xvii, 75.

4. Hebra, F., and Kaposi, M.: Lehrbuch der Hautkrankheiten, 1876, ii, 30.

5. Jablokoff and Klein: Vrtl. jhrshr. f. Dermat. und Syph., 1879, vi, 632.

6. Michelson: von Ziemssen's Handbuch der Hautkrankheiten, 1884, 14-2, p. 98.

7. Hyde, J. N.: A Case of Congenital Nevus Lipomatodes, Jour. Cutan. and Vener. Dis., 1885, iii, 193.

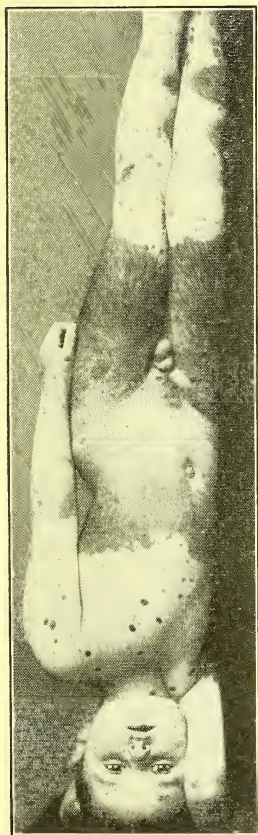


Fig. 1.—Extensive pigmented and hairy nevus of the "bathing-trunk type," presenting genital tumors, in a girl $4\frac{1}{2}$ years old.

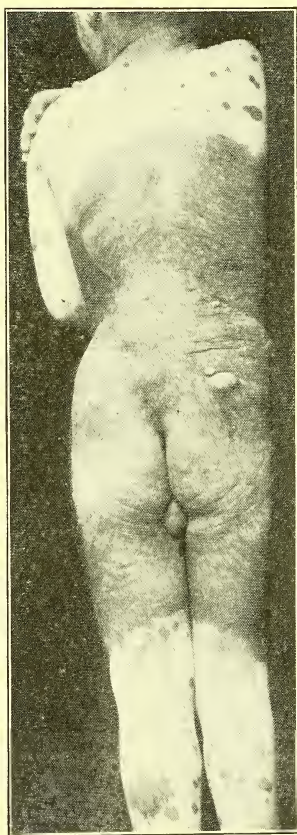


Fig. 2.—Posterior view of same patient as in Figure 1.

Hardy,⁸ von Planner,⁹ Linke,¹⁰ Joseph,¹¹ Eichhoff,¹² Moller,¹³ Ornstein,¹⁴ Thienel¹⁵ and Rossi.¹⁶ Bircher also mentions the case of Ruggieri, quoted by Alibert,¹⁷ but does not include it as one of the same type. That it was apparently a case of the "bathing-trunk" configuration would appear from the statement of Alibert, who wrote that the situation of the lesions was such that "one could have thought that she wore a waistcoat and a pair of drawers." In addition to these sixteen cases I have found six that had escaped the notice of Bircher, namely, those reported by de Amicis,¹⁸ Scarenzio,¹⁹ Variot,²⁰ Röhring²¹ and Reinhart²² (two cases). Since the report of Bircher, three cases have also been published by Rost,²³ Bonn²⁴ and Fasal,²⁵ making a total of twenty-six cases of this peculiar form of nevus.

Of these patients, twelve were females and thirteen males, the sex of one patient not being stated. The ages at which the patients were observed ranged from infancy to middle age. In three of the cases the lesions did not quite complete the contour of the bathing-trunk while

8. Hardy, A.: *Traité des maladies de la peau*, Paris, 1886, p. 100.

9. Von Planner, R.: Ein Fall von *Nevus congenitalis* mit excessiver Geschwulstbildung, *Vrtljhrsch. f. Dermat. u. Syph.*, 1887, xiv, 439.

10. Linke, J.: Zur Kasuistik der *Naevi*. Inaug. Dissert., Munich, 1887.

11. Joseph, M.: Ein Fall von schwimmhosenartigem thierähnlichem *Naevus piliferus pigmentosus*, *Deutsch. med. Wchnschr.*, 1889, xv, 482.

12. Eichhoff, P. J.: Ein Fall von tierfellähnlichem *Naevus pilosus mollusciformis*, *Monatsh. f. prak. Dermat.*, 1889, ix, 483.

13. Moller, J.: Grosser schwimmhosenartiger *Naevus pilosus* mit Pigmentsarkom, *Wien. med. Wchnschr.*, 1889, xxxix, 466.

14. Ornstein: Ref. in *Monatsh. f. prak. Dermat.*, 1892, xiv, 299.

15. Thienel, A.: Ein Fall von schwimmhosenartigem *Naevus pigmentosus pilosus* mit *Carcinoma melanodes*, Inaug. Dissert., Greifswald, 1892.

16. Rossi, A.: Un Caso di neo nevropatico bilaterale accompagnato da meningocele, *Riv. clin. e terap.*, 1893, xv, 337.

17. Alibert, J. L.: *Monographie des dermatoses*, 1832, p. 801.

18. de Amicis, T.: Rara forma di neo pigmentario diffuso su tutta la superficie cutanea, *Mov. Med. Chir.*, 1875, No. 29, p. 30.

19. Scarenzio, A.: Di una singolare alterazione piamentaria verrucosa e lipomatosa congenita, *Glor. ital. d. Malatt. vener. e. dell pelle*, 1877, xii, 220.

20. Variot, G.: Note sur les lésions de la peau dans la mélanodermie congénitale, *Arch. d. Physiol.*, 1887, Series 3, x, 225.

21. Röhring: Ein Fall von umfangreichem behaartem *Naevus*, *Deutsch. med. Wchnschr.*, 1893, xix, 943.

22. Reinhardt, P.: Ueber *Naevus pilosus* und zwei neue Fälle von Schwimmhosen-*Naevus*, Inaug. Dissert., Jena, 1895.

23. Rost: Vorstellung eines Falles von *Naevus pilosus*, *Berl. klin. Wchnschr.*, 1899, xxxvi, 531.

24. Bonn, E.: Ueber einen beobachteten Fall von pigmentiertem Riesenhaarnaevus (*Schwimmhosennaevus*) nebst Bemerkungen zur Genese dieser Bildungsanomalie, *Prag. med. Wchnschr.*, 1907, xxxii, 391.

25. Fasal, H.: Ueber einen Fall von Schwimmhosennaevus, *Wien. med. Wchnschr.*, 1909, lix, 683.

in another case the nevus was unilateral. In the majority of the patients there were numerous other small pigmented, or pigmented and hairy lesions, scattered over various parts of the body. In ten of the cases mention was made of accompanying tumor masses, described as firm elastic or lipomatous tumors or as nevus mollusciformis. Indeed these tumors seemed to one author (Hyde⁷) such a prominent feature that his case was reported as nevus lipomatodes. In the case of Moller,¹³ some of the tumors were found under the microscope to be sarcomatous, while in that of Thienel they became carcinomatous when the patient was 40 years old.

As a rule the patients did not complain of any physical discomfort from their lesions, although Röhring²¹ states that his patient suffered great inconvenience from the presence of fleas. In my case there was a constant disagreeable odor from decomposition of urine and sweat about the genitals, which, however, was entirely relieved after the tumors had been excised by Dr. George H. Semken. In the case of the woman quoted by Alibert,¹⁷ the nevus was responsible for a most pathetic occurrence. The patient married a man who was deeply in love with her, but who did not know of her affliction. He was so horrified on learning of her condition that he sued for and obtained a speedy divorce.

While any extensive treatment in my case has of course been impossible, some improvement has nevertheless been obtained in the lesions on the face and hands by applications of nitric acid, phenol (carbolic acid) and carbonic acid snow.

In conclusion I may add that my patient has previously been presented before several dermatologic societies, including the Sixth International Congress of Dermatology.

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